



"Our Home, our Country and our Brother Man."

HOW TO USE GUANO.

Several of our subscribers inform us that they have obtained a quantity of guano, and intend using it for a fertilizer this spring, but do not know what is the best method. We are not able to give them any advice in this matter from any personal experience, never having used it in any large quantities.

The use of it in Maine has not hitherto been sufficient to allow any one to give sure and definite directions. It is evident that the action of this material varies according to the climate and nature of the soil. Hence it must for some time yet be a matter of experiment to ascertain the best mode of using it among us in order to draw from it the utmost advantages it is capable of affording.

We copy from the Journal of the New York State Agricultural Society the following directions as given in the Mark Lane Express, an English paper. Our readers can take them with such allowances as they may deem proper. It does not follow that the same mode of using would be best here:

First. Never mix it with any thing: all lime, compost, ashes, and similar ingredients, too often contain enough caustic alkali to drive off the ammoniacal parts, before the soil can surround and absorb them. A vast amount of mischief and loss often follows this mistake. If they can apply it alone, the soil can best adapt it for plants.

Second. Mix as much as possible with the soil, not too deeply, but plow it in after sowing it broadcast, unless it be for beans, (English horse beans,) or drilled and ridged crops, when it may be sown on the surface before the ridges are made.

Third. If applied as a top dressing, always apply it if possible, before rain, or when snow is on the ground; and if on arable land, harrow or hoe it possible after the operation.

Fourth. The best mode to apply it by water. A slight solution of it is by far the most powerful and speedy application.

Fifth. If sowed with drilled grain, or indeed any seed whatever, it should never come in contact with it. It is not a bad plan to sow it broadcast after the grain is drilled in, and then harrow, as it is thus kept in the nearest proximity to the seed without coming in contact with it.

Lastly. Be sure to get if possible the genuine article—cheap guano there is none. It is best to have a quantity purchased together, and analyzed by a practical chemist. The quantity of genuine guano per acre used, is from two to three hundred pounds;—the latter quantity when the land is deficient and requires speedy renovation.

KILLING LICE ON CATTLE.

Our readers will remember that a week or two ago, in answer to queries respecting the best mode of killing vermin on cattle, we recommended tobacco smoke in preference to any thing else. We have known an infusion of tobacco, (tobacco tea,) to kill cattle and calves when put on strong, but in conversation with our neighbor Messrs. Hanson, he informs us that he used it during the past winter on his cattle with perfect safety and success. His mode of using it was as follows: Finding that the cattle had become infested with lice, he took tobacco and steeped it in water, using the proportion of one "dug" to two quarts of water. This he applied while moderately warm, and after having washed the creature with it, he took the card and carried it over, thus working the moisture into the hair, and on to the skin more thoroughly. No bad symptoms were discovered in the animal, but the lice were all killed. In a short time it was found that new broods had hatched out from the nits, and another washing became necessary. By repeating these washings, his cattle were completely rid of lice, without any deleterious effect upon the cattle, in consequence of using the tobacco in the form of a wash.

IS THE FIRST MILK POISON?

A friend informs us that Mr. H. B. Wyman, of Sidney, lost a valuable sow not long ago, in consequence of giving her the first milk of a cow after calving, and asks if it invariably causes such trouble if hogs are fed on it? We believe that it does. We one year gave some milk to a sow that was with pig. It made her sick and she cast her pigs before her time, all of which were dead. We were told that such would be the result if we fed her with it, but were faithless. The next year we fed it to another under the same circumstances, and the result was the same—all the pigs being dead. We found that rather costly experimenting, and have never tried it again. Last spring one of our neighbors who had a very fine sow, fed her with a pretty generous portion of such milk, which immediately became sick and came very near dying.

And now we have the above fact related of Mr. Wyman's sow as above.

We think these facts are sufficient to warrant the conclusion, that such milk is highly injurious to swine, or at least to sows. It would be rather expensive to go into a series of experiments, to prove that such food is invariably injurious to swine, when isolated and accidental cases are all followed by the same result, it is fair to consider it an established law of nature, and worthy to be put down among the scientific facts in animal physiology.

Crush the caterpillars in the egg, and you will save much time and injury, and secure a larger crop of fruit.

PUT IN THE GRAIN LIBERALLY.

We are aware that wages are very high in consequence of "hands" being scarce. We are also aware that the little destroyer of grain called the weevil is not yet extinct. We are also aware that, in consequence of the wintry season extending so far into the spring, the farmers of Maine will find ere long their whole spring's work pressing upon them at once. Notwithstanding all this, our friends will permit us to advise that they sow and plant liberally. The great powers of Europe are at war. The regions on the Black Sea and south of Europe, from whence England and France have been in the habit of procuring supplies of breadstuffs when they fell short, are covered with spears instead of ploughshares, and of course all supplies will stop in that quarter. They must, therefore, turn to the United States for breadstuffs—so, farmers of Maine, put in the crops to the utmost extent of your abilities. If the despoils of the old world will play the fool and fight, don't let them starve you.

FERTILIZERS—INFORMATION WANTED.

Mr. Editor:—Will you inform me as to the diversities of price and value of the following manures, that are so much thought of, viz: Poudrette, Phosphate of Lime, Guano, and the composition of the two former, and oblige a subscriber and other? H. D. Riso. North Scituate, Me., April 17, 1854.

Note. In answer to friend Ring, we would say, that the diversities of price in the articles which he mentions depend, like every thing else, on the demand and supply. Poudrette costs at present from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per barrel; phosphate, or rather super phosphate of lime, about \$50 per ton; guano \$50 per ton.

In regard to the composition of the two first named—we would say that, Houdrette is manufactured from the material obtained from the privies in cities and other places. This is mingled with ashes, or dried peat or plaster, dried, pulverized and barreled for use. We all know that the first named material, is the most concentrated and powerful fertilizer that can be used, and when no more of the other articles are added to it, than sufficient to neutralize its offensive odors, and convert it to a condition to be barreled, and transported for sale. Poudrette is one of the best manures in the market. But, alas, for poor human nature. It is so grasping—so eager for gain, that it will allow the poudrette manufacturer to be tempted as well as others, and therefore it is not always the case, that when you pay the stipulated price for a barrel, and it comes all marked according to the bill, that you have really got poudrette. It may be a barrel of dirt possessing many of the external appearances of genuine poudrette, and yet have none or but a very trifling portion of the essential material in it. Such impositions have been practiced, and the honest purchaser not suspecting the fraud, uses it on his land, but finds no benefit—loses all faith in poudrette, and instead of "blowing up" the man who cheated him, blows up the substance that he did not obtain, and never tries again.

Phosphate of lime is composed of phosphoric acid and lime. It is the material of which a great part of our bones, of all bones of animals are composed; bones are made of phosphate of lime—carbonate of lime and glue, (sometimes called gelatin.) Bone dust, therefore, is composed of a mixture of phosphate of lime and carbonate of lime. Now this phosphate of lime is not easily dissolved in water, but it must be dissolved before it can be taken up by the little roots of plants, and converted into food for the plant.

When we use bone dust, there must be a change wrought on it, by the exposure of it to the action of the air—moisture and warmth of the earth, and probably some other agents in the soil, and thus it is converted into a state to be dissolved, and thus it manifests a beneficial action on the crop. If there be no such change, the farmer sees no action from it, and sometimes concludes too hastily that the material is good for nothing. By dissolving bones in sulphuric acid, a change is brought about in the condition of the materials of the bone. The sulphuric acid robs the phosphoric acid of a part of the lime with which it was combined. Of course the proportion of lime to the phosphoric acid becomes less, and the phosphoric acid predominates over the lime. It is in the majority as politicians say, and is then called super phosphate of lime. Now this super phosphate of lime is easily dissolved in water, and of course acts more readily than the phosphate does. Hence it is a better dressing for crops than bone dust, provided you have no moisture when it is applied, but there is rain or moisture enough to dissolve it. But this article is oftentimes shamefully adulterated by those who deal in it; it is easily counterfeited, and the demand for it has tempted some unscrupulous men, to palm off an article of super phosphate of lime, that is no more like the genuine article than chalk is like cheese.

The person who has bought it at a great price, loses his money, his crop, his patience and his faith, and wishes all the whole catalogue of new fertilizers and those who recommend them, in the bottom of the Red Sea. We recommend caution in the purchase of such articles. [Ed.]

PAINTING IMPLEMENTS.

A great saving may be made by keeping implements constantly under shelter when not in use. But this is nearly impossible; and besides, many of them must necessarily be exposed during their employment to many days of hot sun and occasional showers. It is therefore very important to keep them well painted. As a general average, they will last twice as long by the protection of a coat of paint, renewed as often as it is worn off.

FENCES. Let every panel of fence on your place be examined, and repaired without delay. Broken panels or weak points in a fence encourage cattle to commit breaches; to prevent which you should keep your fences always in good order.

A BIG EGG AND A QUERRY.

Mr. Editor:—In all the crowing over large eggs, I have heard nothing quite equal to an egg produced by a Shanghai owned by Capt. Wm. Small, of this place, which measured 9 1/2 by 7 1/2 inches, and weighed 7 oz. But what is most singular, when broken, it was found to contain, besides the usual white and yolk, a perfect egg of the common size. Since then I have seen another measuring the same and weighing half an ounce less, produced by the same fowl.

I have a few apple trees marked sapovine; a name which I do not find noticed in the books. Will you please give a description in your valuable paper, and oblige C. L. SMALL. Cherryfield, Me., April 22, 1854.

Note. We believe the Cherryfield hen must bear away the premium in the way of laying big eggs.

As to regards the apple called the sapovine, we have an apple here with that name. It is an early handsome red apple, as every boy in the neighborhood will tell you, when the trees come to bear. We are inclined to think it is the same as the Shropshirevine of the books, though some think it is the *Sops* vine of the books. [Ed.]

ANOTHER REMEDY FOR SCRATCHES.

Mr. Editor:—I noticed in your paper several receipts for the cure of scratches in horses, among them was that of a solution of lime, which, if it had appeared a little sooner, I should have been tempted to have tried on a three years old colt whose lameness, which appeared about three weeks since, was found to be caused by the scratches. After the repeated applications of remedies said to cure the disease, for about a fortnight, with apparently no effect, I applied a coat of zinc paint and oil. By examination the next day after the priming or application of paint, I found signs of amelioration of the condition of the sores, and in a day or two decided signs of improvement, and now, although it has been but a few days, the colt is free from lameness, and the sores are healed. The remarkable rapidity with which this cure was brought about was evidently owing to this simple and easily applied remedy, and the object of speaking of this remedy, is the good of those horses whose owners are ignorant of its good effects, in this disease. R. K. W.

BROODING TOOLS.

Mr. Editor:—If there is one thing more vexatious than another, in the life of a farmer, it is to be continually subjected to the importunities of the borrower of tools. Your neighbor only wants to get your ox chain or ginglelight, or your bar or manure fork, broad axe, or plane or auger, for an hour or two, and will surely send Benhadad or Joe Bunker right back with it. Well, he promises fair, you cannot deny him the use of a single tool, unless you wish to have applied to yourself the sobriquet of niggard or small souled, albeit the calls are (not like angel's visits) more numerous, I was about to say, than the frogs of Egypt, at least more frequent than the variety of your stock of tools. The tool is carried away, hours, days, weeks, and perhaps months elapse, and you then, as often as any way, in the most critical time, are obliged to start off post haste to your ever kind neighbor, in pursuit of your own tools, for the purpose of repairing your cart or some other implement of husbandry which some accident has befallen. In apparent surprise, he ejaculates, "My dear Sir, have you come after that hand saw?—there, it entirely slipped my mind, I was so busy at the time—how strange it is that I should have forgotten it; come, go in and take a little cider." Well, you are in great haste and cannot stop to parley or sip old orchard; he ransacks his premises, and if he has not loaned the article to his other neighbor, peradventure he finds it in some exposed situation, where the storms have beat upon it, and nearly or quite spoiled it. He apologizes and promises to make it good, while you must take your back track and fix up your cart as best you can, though before leaving you chance to see some half dozen other tools lent in a similar manner which, after asking if he has got through with you, gather up and without any objections on his part, lug them home, feeling a little rascally, yet, wishing to cultivate a spirit of peace and good neighborhood, you plod along, revolving in your mind, whether your neighbor ever contemplated the meaning of that passage recorded in the good book, which reads, *The wicked borrow and return not.*

Allow the writer here to disclaim, of course, any allusion to his own immediate neighbors, who are good men and true; yet he wishes to impress upon the minds of the "rest of mankind," that it is cheaper to buy than to borrow, regardless of the wear and tear of conscience, both for the borrower and especially for the lender, and would simply suggest whether there are any who can rightfully apply to themselves what Nathan said to David. JOANNE.

Winthrop, March, 1853.

How to ENLARGE VEGETABLES. A vast increase of food may be obtained by managing judiciously and systematically—carrying out for a time the principles of increase. Take, for instance, a pea. Plant it in very rich ground; allow it to bear the first year say half a dozen pods only; save the largest, the following year, and retain of the produce three pods only; sow the largest the following year, and retain one pod; again select the largest, and the next year the sort will by this time have trebled its size and weight. Ever afterwards sow the largest seed, and by these means you will get peas or anything else, of a bulk of which we at present have no conception.

THE TOMATO is a native of South America, and was first introduced, to cultivate, in Europe, in 1569. The French and Italians are said to have been the first to adopt its extensive use. It is now in common use everywhere.

EARLY PLANTING.

WORK FOR THE SEASON. It is time to plant peas and many other garden vegetables—if they are not already in the ground—and field parsnips and onions.

The earlier spring grains are sown, as a general thing, the more they produce. We have noticed that Indian corn, which was planted very early, would come up slowly, and for a long time remain near the surface of the ground. That planted several weeks later, after the weather had become steadily warm, would come up quick, grow rapidly, and soon overtake the other.

But later in the season, when the hot, dry weather commenced, the early planted would continue to stretch ahead, while the later planted would be checked in its growth. The roots of that which was first in the ground had been extending downwards, and strengthening, while the top stood nearly stationary, and in the drought, when all the moisture was at a considerable depth below the surface, the advantage of this increased length of root was felt.

At harvest there would be nearly as much difference in the time of ripening as there had been in that of planting.

Early geese, ducks and chickens, are far more valuable than late ones, and bring a higher price in market. All kinds of poultry want tending to now. If you have kept the same stock of fowls for a long time, change your roosters, and take pains to get the very best that you can find at reasonable prices. See that your hens have burnt bones, broken shells, or lime in some form, and also a plenty of fresh meat, in addition to their ordinary food. Cleanse and whitewash their roosts, both for their sake and your own. They will feel better for it, and cackle and crow louder, lay more eggs, and hatch more chickens; and as a preservative of health, the trifling trouble and expense will not be lost either to you or to them.

Marland and Muscovy ducks commence laying early in the spring. But, for a long time, they drop their eggs just where they happen to be when they want to lay. If they have access to a pond, they are apt to lay their eggs in the water. We have known a single Marland duck to drop about, in different places, between forty and fifty eggs, before laying one in a nest, to sit on. Generally they lay in the night, or about daylight. By keeping them shut up at this time, most of the eggs can be saved. Many ducks lay only every other day, some two days out of three, and some regularly every day. Their eggs are richer than hen's eggs, and far superior to use in many kinds of cooking. The cross of the Marland and Muscovy makes an excellent duck for the table; but the hybrids will not breed.

All kinds of animals want looking after. Sows that are ready to pig should be provided with plenty of litter—short straw is better than long—and then very carefully left to themselves. They should be regularly fed on nutritious food. They should also have some fresh meat, as it tends to prevent them from devouring their pigs when first dropped—a very common and very annoying occurrence.

Caution must be used in feeding sows immediately after they have pigged. Wheat bran, and warm water, given sparingly, are suitable nourishment. We have seen a sow spoil for the season—thrown into a fever which kept her poor all the summer—by a single hearty meal given as soon as she had pigged.

Young cattle that have been poorly kept through the winter, are likely to be infested with vermin. Improved feed, covering them with wood shavings, and driving them out in a warm rain, washing them with strong soap-suds, or a decoction of tobacco, on a mild day, and thoroughly white-washing the animals, are some of the harmless remedies for these pests, which should, in some way, be exterminated immediately.

Cows that are going to calve should have some roots or meal every day. The benefit will be seen in the size and quality of the calf, and in the quantity of milk and condition of the cow for a long time to come. But if heifers have swollen or inflamed udders previous to calving, avoid feeding them on Indian meal.

The oxen that are to do your work should not be neglected. Some Indian meal or oats, every day, with as much good hay as they will eat up clean, will soon start off their old cattle, brighten their eyes, improve their spirits, quicken their step, and strengthen their muscles.

As for horses, to keep a horse and not to keep him well, is at all times preposterous.

Sheep should be suitably housed and have dry bedding. Ewes that have lambs, or are going to lamb, should receive some grain every day. The sheep will do better for it, and the lambs will sell for enough more to suit the difference. This delicate weather should not warm the earth only, but it should also warm the heart of the farmer, and make him generous and considerate towards all the animals that depend on his kindness and bounty for their support.

The bother and trouble which can be saved by repairing, at an early day, the fences which the winter has thrown down and damaged, will be appreciated when they are experienced, if they are not in advance. [N. E. Farmer.]

SPRING CLEANING.

BY A REFRIGERATOR.

The melancholy days have come, the saddest of the year, Of cleaning paint, and scrubbing floors, and scouring fat and near; Heaped in the corners of the room, the ancient dirt lay quiet.

Nor rose up at the father's tread, nor to the children's riot; But now the carpets are all up, and from the staircase top.

The mischiefs call to man and maid to wield the broom and mop.

Where are those rooms, those quiet rooms, the house but now presented,

Wherein we dwell, nor dreamed of dirt, so cozy and contented?

Alas! they're turned all upside down, that quiet suite of rooms,

With slops and suds, and soap and sand, and tubs, and pails and brooms;

Chairs, tables, stands, are standing round at sixes and at sevens,

While wife and housemaids fly about like meteors in the heavens.

The parlor and the chamber floor were cleaned a week ago;

But still the sanctum had escaped—the table piled with books,

Pens, ink and paper all about, peace in its very looks—

Till fell the women on them all, as falls the plague on monks—

And then they vanished all away, books, papers, ink and pen.

And now when comes the master home, as come he must of night,

To find all things are "set to wrongs, that they have 'set to rights'."

When the sound of driving tacks is heard, though the house is far from still,

And the carpet woman on the stairs, that harbingers of ill,

He looks for papers, books or bills, that all were there before,

And seeks to find them on the desk, or in the drawer so more.

And then he grimly thinks of her who set this fuss afloat,

And wishes she were out at sea, in a very leaky boat.

He meets her at the parlor door, with hair and cap awry,

With sleeves tucked up, and broom in hand, defiance in her eye;

He feels quite smacked, and knows full well there's nothing to be said,

So holds his tongue, and drinks his tea, and sneaks away to bed.

THE OBJECT OF PLOWING.

The object of plowing is not fully understood and considered by a majority of those who perform the work; if it were, it would be done more faithfully and thoroughly. It is not alone to kill the weeds and grass, nor even to turn a seed-bed of fresh-turned soil for planting or sowing—nor anything which looks merely to the inversion of the soil—which constitutes good plowing. Large plows, turning a wide and shallow furrow, will show a large day's work—but the work is very imperfectly accomplished, when the true object of plowing is considered. The chief value of plowing is the preparation it gives the soil for producing vegetation—far giving to the plants sown or planted the elements of growth and fruitfulness. It should thoroughly pulverize and loosen the texture of the soil, and admit a free circulation of air and moisture, which, by chemical action, disintegrates or breaks down the stony or mineral portions of the same, so that they may be more readily dissolved and taken up by the roots.

In a soil thus plowed—thus prepared for yielding its support to vegetable life—plants can appropriate from far and near the nutrient needed for their growth. It is dissolved and ready for their use—not hidden in unbroken clods, or slumbering in an undisturbed sub-soil—but awaits their action in a friable and penetrable state, where every hungry root, sent out to gather nourishment for its parent plant, may find and appropriate it. It is truly wonderful how full of minute roots the soil of a corn-field becomes, and if that soil is fine and deep, the deeper and closer together will the fibres permeate and intersect it. This is true of all other crops, and while the leaves and fruit depend so intimately on the vigor and extent of the roots, these facts should always be taken into consideration among the objects of plowing.

Finess and depth of soil are requisite in order to receive full benefit of the manure applied. It is not fertilizing food in its crude state which assists vegetation—it must first be intimately mixed with, or, in fact, a part of the soil. Barn-yard manure, especially, seems of little worth, while forming visible layers between the clods of a half-powdered soil; it is often dry and coarse, and rather shunned than sought by the roots sent out to forage for suitable food. If a well-prepared soil has any strength or virtue, it will yield it readily; and poor land in good till is often more useful than better soils less perfectly prepared. The influences of air and moisture have freedom to work, and they are no laggards in gathering means to supply the wants of vegetation.

With these hints on the object of plowing, we might connect others on the process—the best means of accomplishing that object—but prefer to leave it for other pens. Will our practical farmers, who have thought and experimented upon the subject, tell us what plow, and what depth and width of furrow, taking also soil, season, team and time into consideration, most thoroughly loosens, pulverizes and inverts the soil? This information would be of much value to every farmer, and is especially needed in the present state of agricultural progress—for, taking the country at large into account, plowing is more imperfectly performed than any other part of husbandry. [Rural New Yorker.]

VALUE OF LABOR. Of all the various operations by which labor and skill are bestowed on a cheap material until it becomes very valuable, we know of none more valuable than making watch-springs. A piece of bar iron worth one dollar, if made into horse shoes, becomes worth \$2.50; into table knives \$3; into needles \$7.10; into pen knife blades \$8.57; into balance (hair) springs for watches \$50,000! Thus the value of the labor in the latter case amounts to 49,999 times as much as the material used!

PREPARING SEED CORN.

As the planting season is now near at hand,

it may be useful to present such modes of preparing corn for planting, as appears to have answered the purpose desired. We therefore append two modes. The first is from O. F. Marshall, of Wheeler, N. Y., and the other is from a correspondent of the Albany Cultivator, who dates at Xenia, Ohio. [Ed. Tel.]

1. I have made frequent experiments in preparing seed corn, without success, except one made last spring. I took soft soap, put some in a kettle, warmed it over the fire, put in the seed corn, and gave it a good stirring, adding as much plaster as would adhere to the corn. The corn came up good and quick, and looked vigorous and healthy. The alkali in the soap is a strong fertilizer. The wire worms did not disturb that planted with the seed soaped—that part not soaped, was injured more or less by the worms. Least some should attribute the manifest difference between the soaped and unsoaped seed to the plaster, I took some thick molasses, put a few quarts of seed in a kettle, as above stated; there was as much plaster attached to this seed as to that soaped. The greater part of the field was planted with seed in its natural state. The soaped seed came up the quickest and best. Will others try the experiment?

2. Take a tight vessel of convenient size, into which put the seed corn, adding sufficient warm water to cover the corn; the water so warm that the hand cannot be kept in it; stirring the corn a few times, that it may be thoroughly wet, letting it stand in the water from ten to twelve hours, then take the corn out of the water, and put it in a nice pile on the barn floor, cover it with a blanket for the space of two nights and one day, then plant as soon as possible.

My informant says (having confidence in him in this matter,) that on last year, his seed corn treated as above, came up so well, that he had not to replant any, while the same variety, planted on the same day, in the same field, and not treated as the above, but dry, came up very indifferently, having to be replanted.

What is still better, (says my informant,) the prepared seed came up sooner, and apparently kept a week in advance in the growth during the season.

DRAINING LANDS.

A judicious system of drainage is one of the most important requisites upon a farm which occupies a low position, or embraces a tract of swampy land. It renders it comparatively light and porous, and capable of absorbing all the nutritious elements afforded by sun, wind, or decaying vegetation. The wheat, corn, oats and grasses, send down strong roots into that part of the soil never penetrated before, and find there an abundant source of nourishment. After the completion of a system of drains, every successive year improves the soil. They act like the veins and arteries of the human body, giving warmth, life and strength, and constantly opening new and increased sources of fertility. A writer in the Patent Office Report says that in ditching, if the amount of water to be discharged is large, there should be a wide open ditch; but wherever the amount is small, the ditch should be narrow and covered. Open ditches are used by many persons upon all occasions; but, unless the amount of water is too large to admit of them, underground drains are decidedly preferable. They drain the land better; as they never fill up when properly made, they involve no expense in clearing them; and they occupy no space upon the surface. On the sides of an open ditch the plowman must often leave from a quarter to half an acre of land to turn up; but he can drive over a covered drain without inconvenience, and instead of giving the soil in its vicinity up to the production of weeds and bushes, he raises upon it the best grain in the field.

One of the most simple modes of building covered ditches is as follows: After digging a trench of the required size, procure a large number of short staves of oak, or some other lasting wood, two or three inches in thickness, and the wider the better. Place one end of them upon the bottom of the ditch on one side, and lean the other against the opposite side, breaking joints. Then cover them with earth, and the drain thus formed will last many years without repairs. Another mode which has been successfully tested, is to use earthen tiles, made in the shape of a half cylinder and jointed—spreading out several inches on the lower edges, so as to form a surface to rest upon. The farmer will find a thorough system of draining cheap in the long run. [Exchange.]

MANURE FOR STRAWBERRIES. While on this subject, we may as well give those of our readers who wish to cultivate a bed, only a few strawberries, the following mode of manuring them, as practised by a cultivator in Philadelphia, and communicated to the "Friend's Review," published in that city. The writer had a very productive bed, 30 by 40 feet. I applied, says he, about once per week, for three times, commencing when the green leaves first begin to start, and making the last application just before the plants were in full bloom, the following preparation:—Nitrate of potash, (salt petre) glauber salts and sal soda, (carbonate of soda) each one pound, nitrate ammonia, one quarter of a pound dissolved in 30 gallons of rain water. One third of this was applied at a time; and when the weather was dry, I applied clear soil water between the times of using the preparation, as the growth of the young leaves is so rapid, that, unless applied with water, the sun will scorch them. I used a common watering pot, making the application toward evening. Managed in this way, and the weeds kept out, there is never any necessity of digging over the bed, or setting out new. Beds of ten years are not only as good, but better than those two or three years old.

PLASTER ON PEAS. In a recent conversation with Mr. A. Bean, of Gates, Monroe Co., N. Y., he informed us that he had repeatedly used plaster on peas, with decidedly good results. He sows about 100 lbs. per acre, when the peas are an inch or two out of the ground. He thinks it is nearly or quite as beneficial on peas as on clover. [Rural New Yorker.]

DOMESTIC RECEIPTS.

SELECTED FROM VARIOUS SOURCES.

HOUSE CLEANING. As this is about the season when good house-wives clean their houses from garret to cellar, it may be well to say a few words on the subject. When you wash paint, don't use soft soap and warm water, for that will take off the paint as well as the dirt. Use cold water and hard soap. Scrub the floors with soft soap, and don't put down the carpets until the floor is perfectly dry. Always put down some fine clean (mild clean) straw under the carpet, and lay it smooth and level. Carpets may be cleaned by pounding them in strong soap suds and washing them well out of the soap. The suds must be very strong and cold. This is done by cutting down the hard soap and dissolving it in warm water. The suds should feel slippery between the fingers. Bedsteads should receive a complete scrubbing with soap and water, and should not be put up until perfectly dry. The seams and holes should then be anointed with corrosive sublimate, dissolved in alcohol, or sulphur mixed with camphene, or a solution of the chloride of zinc. No person should go to sleep in a damp bed-room. Many people, by overlooking this caution during house-cleaning season, catch severe colds, and make their beds with the cloths of the valley before the subsequent Christmas. Always commence to clean at the top of the house, and descend by steady regular stages. Some people can clean their houses with quietness and scarce any disorder; others do no more work but make a great deal of noise. If there is a dog or cat about the house, it generally disappears till the squall is over. The grand rule for facilitating work is system. Arrange all the work to be done, and how it is to be done, before commencing. For want of system, many a job has to be done over and over again.

BUCKETE BREAD. Take a pint of new milk warm from the cow; add a tea-spoonful of salt and stir in fine Indian meal until it becomes a thick batter, a gill of fresh yeast, and put it in a warm place to rise. When it is very light, stir into the batter three beaten eggs, adding warm flour until it has become of the consistency of dough; knead it thoroughly, and set it by the fire until it begins to rise; then make it up into small loaves or cakes, cover them with a thick napkin, and let them stand until they rise again, then bake in a quick oven. So says the Lynchburg Lumaker.

COCA-NUT CAKE. Grate the cocoa-nut, and add an equal weight of pulverized loaf sugar; to two pounds of this mixture add half the white of an egg. Sprinkle small thin with flour, put on in balls one and a half inches in diameter, and bake quickly. To be eaten cold; and will keep a long time.

ESSENCE OF CELERY. Steep an ounce of celery seed in half a pint of vinegar. A few drops of this gives a fine flavor to soups, and sauce for fowls.

TO STEW LOBSTERS. Take the meat out of the shells of one or two boiled lobsters. Put the shells into a pint of water with some whole pepper, salt, and a little mace. Let it boil till all the goodness is extracted from the shells, then strain it. Mix with a little cream, or thin melted butter, the rich portion of the lobster and the coral; add a small quantity of lemon juice and two table spoonsful of wine, mix it with the gravy and warm the lobster in it; a few minutes will suffice.

SNOW, THE POOR MAN'S MANURE. For indefinite ages, snow has been regarded as imparting increased fruitfulness to the soil. Many intelligent men have doubted the correctness of this popular notion; but since Baron Liebig discovered ammonia in recently fallen snow, the difficulty is fully explained. Direct and numerous experiments have shown that ammonia is by far the most powerful element in common stable manure. Manure is worth \$50 a ton, and fifty times more than a like weight of barn-yard manure, mainly because it contains fifty times as much ammonia.

The decay of plants all over the continent discharges into the atmosphere a vast amount of the elements of crops, which are brought back to the

THE TOPIC OF THE DAY.
A COMPLAINT BY AN OLD FOGY.

TO A CHILD.

Thou bright thing, fresh from the hand of God;
The motions of thy limbs are swayed
By the unceasing motion of thy being!
Dearer I seem to God when looking on thee.
Thy ages since he made his youngest star,
Thou art as new as he, as fresh as yesterday,
Thou later revelation! Silver stream,
Breaking with laughter from the lake divine
Thence all things flow! Oh, bright and singing babe,
That wilt thou be hereafter! [Alexander Smith.]

From the Kuickerbocker Magazine.

well furnished room, "and were it not for the children, I should be contented to end my days here; but the boys will soon be too old to share one room, and the girls are growing up. Clara, you know is nearly sixteen, and I wish, as even my mother does, to make a genteel appearance for their sakes. Your business is prosperous, and as you have taken an advantageous lease of this house, I think we might let it for as much as we should give for another that suited better."

The following morning Mrs. Brown wisely refrained from alluding to the conversation of the preceding night, but hurried through her usual duties, and immediately after her husband left for his place of business, started on her tour of discovery. She had never undertaken anything of the kind before, as she had occupied her present dwelling ever since her marriage.

A pair of black leather gloves, likely for a film or television production, resting on a light-colored surface. The gloves are positioned with the palms facing each other, showing the texture of the leather and the stitching.

Many days were spent in this manner, and she almost began to despair, when she found at last what seemed the very object of her search, a handsome house in a respectable neighborhood at a very reasonable rent. Quite elated at her success, she returned home, after having ascertained where the landlord resided. The house was at present unoccupied, and they could have possession immediately, which was very desirable, as it would enable them to avoid the cost of the removal. May day. When Mr. Brown came, his wife informed him that she had found a dwelling that would suit them, and asked him to go with her to see it. He complied, and after having examined the house, he said he saw no positive objection to it; it was rather out of his way to be sure, but he should be content with it, and he was satisfied, and he promised to call upon the owner the following morning.

Morning came, and Mrs. Brown devoted her self assiduously to her duties, with a grateful warmth playing about her heart towards her husband, who had so kindly and quietly sacrificed his inclination to hers. She was sad and annoyed by the continual ringing at the door-bell, and inquires as to the rent, and other particulars ; but, remembering what trouble she must have occasioned during her own house-hunting adventures, she determined to do as she would be done by, and so bore the infliction with patience. There was a satisfied expression on her face, as she sat down to her dinner-table, and as she sat self at the dinner-table, which argued well for her wife's hopes. She looked eagerly towards him, but he vouchsafed no remark, except in praise of the dinner, until she ventured to say "Well, have you seen the landlady!"

"No, but I will see him this afternoon if I can."

Certainly not, my dear; but in this instance

was about sacrificing his comfort for empty show; and the many voices of affection rose in her heart and conquered the promptings of pride and worldly ambition. She rose, and opened the hall door, took down the bill and placed it in her work basket. With a light heart and cheerful smile she met her husband, whose first words were:

"Has the bill blown down, Sarah?"

"No," she replied, "the house is taken by a person who I am sure you will approve, and one who you will confess has a better right than any other. I have taken it!" she continued, seeing her husband's look of surprise, as she placed the bill in his hand; "and with it a firm resolution never again to attend a sacrifice of solid comfort for empty show, but in my domestic arrangements, as in all other things, to rest

THE BACHELOR AND THE BABY.

There was no one at home except the baby's mother, and baby, and I. Baby had just gone to sleep, when baby's mother remembered a trifling commission which she had promised to execute for me in the village. With an injunction to touch the cradle if baby woke, she departed, leaving me proud of my new employment, and lulled by past inactivity into a state of fatal security.

With one eye on my boot, and the other on the cradle, like a faithful watch-dog, I listened to the retreating footsteps that should have warned me, but did not, "to look out for squalls."

I had no ideas of the awful responsibility which I had taken upon myself, or I should have shrunk from it, as a cat does from water, or a mouse from a churning-machine. In fact, I rather suspect that I felt in a trifling degree ambitious that

the guardian genius—how the flies pitched into its nose!—was an sound asleep as any baby could be when its mother departed; but no sooner had her shadow faded from the room than sounds of wakefulness began to appear. First came a sigh; then a chuckle, that said, as plain as a chuckle could say, "Now for some fun;" then one eye opened and shut, and then both began peeping about, till the head seemed inclined to bob off the pillow. I felt a little nervous at this symptom—only a little. "Poh," said I to myself, "a roll or two of the cradle will soon settle your business, youngster!" But it did not. Baby was bound to have a spree. It knew that "its mother was out." That big, bothersome blue-bottle fly, too, tired of watching for the help over the door, came, at last, on a voyage of discovery, into the room, and, on the verge of rearing over the side of its account, it alighted on the cradle, where it was chased by "han, the blue-bottle fly!"

have no doubt that halibutones as big as pen

There was a rooster upon the fence flapping his wings and crowing like a Trojan—I do believe it was over my perplexity; the pigs were grunting in their sty, pulling each other's ears for amusement; and a cow was giving nourishment to her calf in a distant field. Suddenly a bright idea struck me. I seized an old tobacco pipe that had been stowed away upon the mantelpiece, and immersing the bulb in a tumbler of water, thrust the stem into the baby's mouth. Baby was no genius. I became satisfied of that in a minute. It is an attribute of genius to accomplish its desires with imperfect instruments. There was no stoppage in the

What would I not have given for the sight of a petticoat bearing down to my relief? Never did Robinson Crusoe on his desert island gaze more longingly over the ocean in search of a ship than I did that day for a boat for a honest crew. I could have smiled lovingly on the fattest daughter that ever sweltered in the West Indies, or the thinnest scab that pays her devotions to the door-steps. But the feminine like other useful commodities, had all vanished when most wanted. Even the cat, accustomed to nursing as she was—even the cat, sensible creature, had disappeared.

Like the distressed hero of a novel, I was left to my own resources, and had no resources left. There was a baby flopping about on the floor like a porpoise on a ship's deck, as if lying on its beam ends was a natural position. I figured it a dozen times, but over it went again, as if

she clung upon the iron post—perhaps I should have always stubbornly refused to let her down smoothly. If my trial had lasted a week or longer, I would undoubtedly have had a “crisis” head upon my shoulders. Perhaps I should have sunk into the grave with a nervous fever and had “Died of baby nursing” for an epitaph upon my tombstone. Fortunately for the public in general, and me in particular, I was spared such a catastrophe by the return of the mother who burst panting into the room at the critical moment when my Job-like patience had miserably perished—by degrees, as the water leaked from a broken-hooped bucket. With what a feeling of relief did I look up at the old clock as it announced to me in its most cheerful tones “She’s come! she’s come!”

Would you believe it—but I’m sure you can’t, the fact seems to great an eccentricity—that

the same manner again.

A PARABLE
—
JAMES RUSSELL LO

"O Lord and Master, not ours the guilt,
We build but as our fathers built;
Behold this nation, how they stand,
Sovereign and sole, through all our land.
"Our task is hard,—with sword and flame
To hold thy cath for ever the same,
And with sharp crooks of steel to keep
Still, as thou lovest them, thy sheep."
Then Christ sought out an artisan,
A low-brow'd stunted, haggard man,
And a motherless girl, whose fingers thirl
Pushed from her faintly want and sin.
These set he in the midst of them,
And as they drew back their garment hem,
For fear of defilement, "Lo, here," said he,
"The images ye have made of me."

ONE VACANT CHAIR.

We were talking a few days since with a
esteemed friend of ours, who was reared at

We who sit at the head of these family feasts should never forget that one day we shall be absent from the banquet. The time will surely come when we shall cease to occupy a place there. But we know not when the vacancy may occur, but as surely as time rolls on, as sure as human destiny is sweeping onward and on, as human life is ever tending towards the future, always towards extinction, so surely will the day of our departure come; and struggle we may, resist as we may, as all the aggregated energies of nature may, we must pass from among the living, and leave behind us for the next gathering "one vacant chair."

[Albany Register.

A BEAUTIFUL SENTIMENT. In the letter Hon. Robert C. Winthrop to the Committee Arrangements for the Pilgrim Celebration Plymouth, we find the following sentiment which not only does honor to the writer, but commends itself to every American patriot:

"Rarely indeed, has there been a moment in our history, when it was more important than at this moment, that the American people should remember not only the rock on which the Pilgrims landed, but the *Rock* in which they trusted, and should cherish and hold fast to the principles which fitted them to become the Fathers and Founders of a great country. We are rushing along in the path of national development and extension with a velocity of which the rapid, at this moment in my view, hardly furnish an exaggerated emblem; and there

teaches self-government.

[illegible]

Dr. Nichols' Cough Mixture.
A SINGAPORE remedy for Coughs, Colds, Consumption, Asthma, Bronchitis, Inflammation of the Lungs, Whooping Cough, Consumption and Death.
For Wholesale and Retail, by F. W. KINSMAN & CO.,
only Agents in Australia.

**ONE DOLLAR INVESTMENT BRINGS TWO
Five Hundred Men Wanted, with a Capital
of From \$25 to \$100.**

TO travel in the most interesting and profitable way in the United States and British Provinces, in a light, easy and comfortable way, and to make a fortune in the shortest time, is warranted to make from one to ten dollars per day. The new engined in the business are much pleased with the results, and are now making a fortune, every third day, of all money invested. For further particulars inquire of the undersigned.

FARM FOR SALE.
SITUATED IN BRUNSWICK, 3 miles from
City. The said Farm is near the head of the
said water, and is well adapted for the raising of
a good fishing preserve in either of the rivers. The Farm
contains about 120 acres—the fences are eighteenth stone
and the soil is well adapted for the raising of
barms and also a small water in the yard; a
small stream runs through the said Farm, and
work-shop adjoining. Keys on said Farm 1 rook
2 yokes of 3 yrs. old stags, 3 cows and 2 horses.
The said Farm is well stocked with all the stock
on hand will be sold with the Farm if wanted; also the
said Farm is well adapted for the raising of
on the premises.
MOSES A. GRAVES
Brunswick, April 18, 1854.

GRASS SEED, &C.
JOHN McARTHUR, No 1 Market Street
has for sale, all kinds of Grasses, very low
cash or approved notes.
1000 lbs. Canada Grass
6000 lbs. Canadian Clover
4000 lbs. Northern New York Clover,
White Clover.

Augusta, 1864.

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Cultivates, and offers for sale, at the Nurseries, or at the
Sales Room in the City Hall Building, Market Sq., Portland.

ORNAMENTAL TREES.
For the *Forest*, *Lawns*, *Parcs*, &c.,
Horse Chestnut, European Mountain Ash, English Linden,
Sweet Birch, Norway Spruce, Norway Fir, Weeping Willow,
Scots Larch, Sugar Pine, Silver Birch, Vines, Purple Beech,
Tree and others.

FLOWERING SHRUBS.
Athena, Syringa, Flowering Almond, Snowball, Flowering
Currants, Lilacs, Honeysuckles, Snowdrops, Forsythia,
Roses, Tulips, Box for the Garden, and all the best
HEDGE PLANTS—Buckthorn, Three Thorned Acacia,
Privet, Arborvitae, Yew, and all the best of the kind.
Roses—The list of this *Queen of Flowers* comprises all
the most beautiful and valuable varieties of the *Queen of Flowers*,
Verandas, &c., among which are Hybrid Perpetual, Hybrid
Chin, and all the best of the kind, and many more.

ROCKS for Gravel or Building, furnished at low rates.
The *Gravel* and *Building* materials, Dealers and Amateurs
is respectfully called to the above extensive collection, with
the view of procuring the best and most economical
those purchasing large quantities. Orders respectfully
solicited.

Plants will be carefully labeled and secured
packed, and promptly forwarded according to direction.
Orders for *Plants* will be promptly forwarded.

FLOWERS and FRUIT will be offered in their season,
great variety, at S. L. CLOUGH'S.

Trunk Lost.
City Hall, Portland.

[illegible][illegible]

T. H. Stanton, No. Monmouth	L. Bisher, Backfield Village
H. J. Smith, No. Monmouth	W. B. Bissell, Backfield Village
H. L. Lovison, No. Monmouth	James Jones, Brunswick
W. H. Loomis, No. Monmouth	A. F. Ross, No. Gloucester
S. A. Wing, South Woods	M. W. Street, No. Gloucester
Thomas Foy, Vassalboro	W. H. Strow, No. Gloucester
W. H. Loomis, No. Monmouth	W. H. Strow, No. Gloucester
M. A. Mowd, Gaderier	E. G. Coston, No. Gloucester
W. H. Loomis, No. Monmouth	W. H. Buxton, Yarmouth
Wm. Foy, Waterville	W. H. Buxton, No. Gloucester
W. H. Hatch, W. Waterville	O. Robinson, Windham
W. H. Hatch, W. Waterville	W. H. Buxton, No. Gloucester
J. F. Hummel, Chisley	J. C. Bennett, Pownallville
W. H. Hatch, W. Waterville	J. C. Bennett, Pownallville
H. Richardson, Benton	J. W. Joy, Limn Gap
H. Richardson, Benton	M. M. Dismore, No. Ansonia
H. Richardson, Benton	W. H. Buxton, No. Gloucester
Alben Baker, Littlefield	E. B. Burton, Benton
Alben Baker, Littlefield	E. B. Burton, Benton
Henry Davis, Little River	James Bond, Harmony
David Howell, Richmond	W. H. Clark, North Palmer
David Howell, Richmond	B. F. Hester, Hallowell
Andrew Libby, Canby	M. Moore, Unity
Andrew Libby, Canby	M. Moore, Unity
O. Butler, Farmington	James Perry, Lincolnville
O. Butler, Farmington	James Perry, Lincolnville
H. E. Dyer, New Sharon	W. H. K. Newcomb, Camden
F. F. Folson, No. Monmouth	T. A. Gush, Appleton
F. F. Folson, No. Monmouth	T. A. Gush, Appleton
M. Bradbury, West's Mills	A. S. French, Benton
M. Bradbury, West's Mills	A. S. French, Benton

SAATCHI, August 1980